

Crafting Compelling Narratives: A Storytelling Scaffold

Learning objective: To structure a coherent narrative using descriptive language, character development, and a clear plot arc suitable for Year 5 readers.

Follow this scaffold to build your story. Use the word bank to add detail and remember to show, not tell, your character's feelings.

The ancient, iron-wrought gates groaned as Max the monkey pushed them open, revealing a garden that defied every law of geometry he had ever studied.

Word bank: meanwhile · unexpectedly · consequently · a sense of trepidation · shimmering · eventually · furthermore · in the blink of an eye · nevertheless

1. The Opening: Introduce your protagonist and the setting. How can you use sensory language (sight, sound, smell) to describe the environment? Start with: 'The atmosphere was thick with...' (2 marks)

2. The Inciting Incident: What is the specific challenge or mystery your character faces? Explain why this event is significant. Start with: 'Without warning, the peace was shattered when...' (3 marks)

3. Building Tension: Describe the obstacles your character encounters. Justify why these obstacles make the protagonist's goal more difficult to achieve. Start with: 'As the challenge intensified, the character felt...' (3 marks)

4. The Climax: Describe the turning point of your story. Compare and contrast how your character feels before and after this moment. Start with: 'The moment of truth arrived as...' (3 marks)

5. Resolution: How does the character change or grow? What might happen if the outcome had been different? Start with: 'Reflecting on the journey, the character realised that...' (2 marks)

6. Word Choice Challenge: Select three adjectives from your story and replace them with more sophisticated synonyms. Explain why your new choices improve the imagery. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine your story is a chapter in a longer novel. Write a short 'blurb' for the back cover, justifying why a reader should choose your book. Then, rewrite your climax from the perspective of a different character present in the scene, ensuring the tone remains consistent.